



CITY COUNCIL

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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Council Focuses Discussion on Agriculture *Kobayashi and Dela Cruz Proposes Several Measures to Promote, Preserve and Protect Agriculture*

HONOLULU, HI – The Honolulu City Council introduced legislation offered by Councilmembers Dela Cruz and Kobayashi to alleviate pressure on Oahu's shrinking and threatened agriculture industry. Legislation provides solutions to address critical land use issues facing agricultural land and provides more resources for the city to deal with agricultural use complaints.

Measures introduced include the following:

- Resolution 08-008, proposes changes to the Land Use Ordinance (LUO) which changes the minimum lot size for land zoned AG-1 to 25 acres and AG-2 to 10 acres, changes the definition of a farm dwelling, requires land to be in active agricultural use for at least 3 years prior to building the farm dwelling, requires at least \$10,000 in gross receipts per year for agricultural use, changes the maximum square foot lot of a farm dwelling to 1,500 sq. ft.
- Resolution 08-009, initiates a charter amendment which establishes an Agricultural Commission to advise and make recommendations to the City Council on ways to support and enhance the agricultural industry in the City.
- Resolution 08-010, proposes amendments to the Agricultural Development Task Force priorities.
- Resolution 08-011, urges the Department of Permitting and Planning to hire additional inspectors to investigate agricultural use complaints.
- Resolution 08-012, requests the City Council to hire a part-time staff person to support the Agricultural Development Task Force.

“Agricultural Development Task Force members declared that the City must do more to promote and encourage agriculture,” says Kobayashi. “The task force also indicated that these changes be proposed so that the Council can continue their discussion on enhancing the viability of the agricultural industry on Oahu.”

Dela Cruz and Kobayashi see these measures also helping to promote a sustainable island by ensuring that agricultural lands are retained for future generations. They also see measures as a way to continue open discussions with community members, landowners and the members of the farming industry to see how we can work together to develop fair and balanced legislation.

“According to the American Planning Association, critical agricultural land in the United States is being developed at a rate higher than population growth. The City must develop, implement and enforce multiple mechanisms for the effective preservation of productive agricultural land,” says Dela Cruz whose district includes most of the major agricultural land on Oahu. “We need ensure agricultural lands for future generations of farmers and help keep families on their farms.”

Copies of the legislation can be found on the City Council website
<http://www.honolulu.gov/council/index1.htm> .

For more information please contact Councilmember Dela Cruz at dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov, 768-5002 and Councilmember Kobayashi at akobayashi@honolulu.gov, 768-5005.

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